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19 March 2014

UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter

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UN Headquarters Updates

OWG Starts Consideration of SDG Focus Areas

5 March 2014



The UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) convened from 3-5 March 2014, for the first session in its "consensus-building phase," which seeks to identify SDGs and accompanying targets. Delegates considered the list of 19 Focus Areas compiled by the Co-Chairs, participated in a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on

Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), heard the reactions of Major Groups to the Focus Areas, and discussed the way forward for its upcoming session.

At the end of the meeting, the Co-Chairs offered to prepare four informational documents, to assist delegates in their deliberations at OWG-10: a "slightly tweaked" Focus Areas document; a compendium of existing issue targets on various issues; a matrix of interlinkages between issues; and working definitions of goals, targets, and indicators.

OWG-10 will convene from 31 March-4 April 2014, in New York, US. The Co-Chairs have proposed to use the meeting to consider all of the Focus Areas, a few at a time. They stressed that this discussion should focus on proposals for targets and goals.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/owg-starts-consideration-of-sdg-focus-areas/>

UNITAR Launches Post-2015 Briefing Series

20 February 2014



The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has launched a series of briefings for UN General Assembly (UNGA) delegates on the intergovernmental process around the post-2015 development agenda. The first briefing took place on 20 February 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York, US, and introduced over 120 delegates to the recent history of the post-2015 consultations, reports, mandates, negotiations and opportunities.

The series aims to foster an "enhanced knowledge and information base for intergovernmental decision-making that will shape the post-2015 agenda," according to UNITAR. Through

presentations by expert panelists and face-to-face learning sessions, UNITAR hopes to offer delegates updated information on the post-2015 process and provide a space for in-depth discussion on the issues.

The 20 February briefing on 'The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Process and State of the Debate' hosted speakers from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UNGA's Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Amina Mohammed, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, detailed the outputs of extensive UN consultations with civil society and other stakeholders.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unitar-launches-post-2015-briefing-series/>

UNDG Announces Dialogues on Implementation

4 March 2014



The UN Development Group (UNDG) has announced on 4th March that Dialogues on Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda will take place in 50 countries, as well as online via the World We Want platform. The Dialogues will focus on six thematic areas: localizing the post-2015 agenda; strengthening capacities and institutions; participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability; partnerships with civil society and other actors; partnerships with the private sector; and culture and development.

“We are committed to changing the way multilateral development diplomacy works,” said Olav Kjørven, Special Advisor to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. “We will continue to expand the areas where people will be able to engage with the work of the UN.”

The consultation format will include public meetings and discussions involving civil society and community representatives, policy planners and private sector leaders. UNDG is currently working to identify the countries that will host the Dialogues on Implementation, with the aim of ensuring balanced regional and thematic representation, according to Kjørven.

The Dialogue findings will be presented to UN Member States during negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2013, nearly two million people shared their priorities for the post-2015 agenda through 88 national consultations, 11 thematic consultations and the 'MY World' global survey. The September 2013 report 'A Million Voices: The World We Want' captures the results of these consultations

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/undg-announces-dialogues-on-implementation/>

UN Statistical Division Holds Events Discussing Post-2015

28 February 2014



The UN Statistical Division (UNSD) held two meetings on the measurement and implementation of UN development agenda: 25th Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on Millennium Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-MDG), on 26-27 February 2014; and a seminar on emerging issues, titled 'Managing the Data Revolution: Integrated Statistics and Partnerships in Data for Statistical Organizations in the Post-2015 Era,' on 28 February.

The 25th IAEG-MDG meeting focused on how the 2014 MDG monitoring report will be prepared, and which global data will be analyzed to show the current global progress towards achievement of the MDGs. At the meeting, the participants also

discussed the post-2015 development agenda and heard a summary of the informal 'Measuring Progress' meeting of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 'Managing the Data Revolution' Seminar brought together data experts, official statistics providers, civil society, and representatives of the UN systems to discuss data partnerships around the post-2015 development agenda. Ivo Havinga, Chief of the UNSD Economic Statistics Branch, opened the event saying that it represented the “unique knowledge center” of the statistical community, around which experts are able to share progress and ideas.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/un-statistical-division-holds-events-discussing-post-2015/>

UNU-INWEH Annual Report Highlights Work on Post-2015

March 2014



The UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) contributed to efforts to define the post-2015 development agenda in four key ways in 2013, according to its 2013 Annual Report. To address the growing global water crisis, the report recommends a holistic ecosystem approach encompassing cultural, economic, physical and socio-economic factors.

First, UNU-INWEH has provided evidence for formulating, implementing and monitoring water-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It recommends, *inter alia*, that water be treated as a cross-linked issue. As part of this work, UNU-INWEH and the UN Office of Sustainable Development (UNOSD) conducted analysis that puts a 'sticker price' on accomplishing water-related SDGs.

UNU-INWEH is analyzing the economics of land degradation (ELD) as part of a global consortium. This work aims to illustrate how sustainable land

management (SLM) can facilitate neutral land degradation and desertification and how diminished land productivity could affect food and livelihood security.

Third, UNU-INWEH is engaged in an advocacy campaign to meet the sanitation-related Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target.

Finally, UNU-INWEH and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) are leading a UN-Water Task Force on water security, including the organization of a series of regional expert consultations.

Following a dialogue on its programmatic structure, UNU-INWEH will frame its future work through two integrated programmes: Water and Human Development; and Water and Ecosystems.

The report includes sections on: UNU-INWEH's programmes on coastal, dryland and freshwater ecosystems and the water-health nexus; projects and activities; capacity building efforts; and science-policy bridging work on the global water security agenda and engagement with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). It also includes descriptive lists of active partnerships, publications and staff.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unu-inweh-annual-report-highlights-work-on-post-2015-agenda/>

UNGA Holds High-Level Event on Women, Youth and Civil Society

7 March 2014



The President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), John Ashe, hosted a High-level Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda addressing the contributions of women, youth and civil society to development. Speakers discussed how these groups can contribute to and have an impact on the next development goals. The two-day event took place from 6-7 March 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York, US.

Opening the event, Ashe welcomed the contributions of all stakeholders to the creation of a shared post-2015 development agenda. He introduced three cross-cutting themes for discussion: equality, inclusiveness, and participation, and said, "As we include and empower more people and groups in this movement, even more people around the world become caretakers of its sustainability. Inclusion and participation mean our global community grows even stronger." Ashe encouraged the audience to grapple with how to better empower women, young

and civil society, and address the inequalities faced by each of them.

Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, focused on the important contributions that young people can make. "By prioritizing young people," he said, "we are prioritizing the future." Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN-Women, said "we in the UN, and in civil society, must increase our efforts to amplify the voices of women, girls and youth," and emphasized their role in the success of the post-2015 development agenda.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted that gender equality is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication, and will "fuel progress" across the entire post-2015 development agenda. He also stressed that "we need the participation, perspectives, and passion of young people," and called upon Member States to include

women and youth in their deliberations for the development agenda.

In closing remarks, Ashe highlighted as key points from the discussion: gender must have a stand-alone development goal, and be mainstreamed throughout the agenda; women and girls must be provided affordable education and reproductive healthcare, while ending violence against them; youth must be provided more employment opportunities, with some proposals made for a specific goal on youth; women and youth must have a greater role in decision-making; good governance and rule of law are important for the realization of human rights; the central challenges of climate change and other environmental issues; and the need for capacity-building to support the participation of women, the young and civil society.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unga-holds-high-level-event-on-women-youth-and-civil-society/>

Partnership for Action on a Green Economy Holds Inaugural Meeting

5 March 2014



The inaugural meeting of the UN-led Partnership for Action on a Green Economy (PAGE) explored national pathways and policies for the green economy, and provide guidance to governments on achieving a green economy transition. Over 30 ministers and high-level officials from more than two dozen countries met with UN officials, international experts, representatives from the business community and civil society.

The meeting was intended to inform other fora, including the process on the post-2015 development agenda and the first UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) convening in June 2014. Discussions addressed, *inter alia*: green and decent jobs; fiscal policy and investments; green industrial policies; social inclusion and poverty eradication; trade policies and opportunities; and metrics and indicators for inclusive green economies.

In an address to the meeting, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said shifting investments will

be key to meeting the Partnership's goal to support green economy transitions in 30 countries by 2020. He stressed the Partnership's relevance to the post-2015 development agenda, noting, "The time has now come to ensure that by 2015—when the UN Millennium Development Goals transcend into the Sustainable Development Goals—the global community has the strategies and the policies in place to fully integrate nature into economic planning and accounting." He added that addressing poverty requires various means of implementation, effective governance and mutually beneficial partnerships at all levels. Underpinning those elements, he said, is sustaining the "natural capital upon which any form of development relies."

The UAE hosted the event in Dubai, from 4-5 March 2014. PAGE was launched in 2013 by UNEP, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), responding to countries' demands for help in implementing green economy policies and best practices. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is slated to join the initiative.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/partnership-for-action-on-a-green-economy-holds-inaugural-meeting/>

Global Updates

World Bank Presents Views on Post-2015 Framework for MDGs

13 March 2014

As the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) gets closer, the World Bank Group (WBG) is setting ambitious targets and reforming the way it does business to support a sustainable post-2015 development framework.

The WBG is working with the United Nations (UN) and other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to make MDGs meet their objectives. While member states are the ones driving the Post-2015 agenda, the World Bank's contribution from its ability to push the "data revolution," or to help build a consensus on a new financing framework is being recognized by the international community.

The WBG is also committed to better leverage resources and knowledge to support strong economic growth and to tackle rising income equality, gender imbalance, climate change and fragility, according to



World Bank Vice President of External and Corporate Relations Cyril Muller, who spoke at a high-level seminar "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Towards a New Partnership for Development," in Moscow.

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2014/03/13/world-bank-presents-views-on-post-2015-framework-for-mdgs>

Common African Position on Post-2015 Agenda Launched

3 March 2014

The African Union (AU) High Level Committee of Heads of State and Governments on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has launched the Common African Position (CAP) and adopted the N'Djamena Declaration on the CAP. The launch took place on 28 February 2014, in Ndjamena, Chad, following adoption of the CAP by the AU Heads of States and Government on 31 January 2014.



The N'Djamena Declaration recognizes that Africa will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and highlights the CAP as the result of regional and continental consultations conducted over the past two years.

Africa's priorities for the post-2015 agenda are presented under six pillars: environmental sustainability, natural resources management and risk management of natural disasters; finance and partnership; human-centered development; peace and security; science, technology and innovation; and structural economic transformation and inclusive growth. Under structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, the Declaration

highlights commitments related to agriculture, food security and nutrition, green growth, infrastructure and information and communications technology (ICT). The Declaration also discusses, *inter alia*, poverty eradication, education, health care, gender and women's empowerment, water management and disaster risk reduction (DRR).

During the launch meeting, Carlos Lopes, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary, identified African challenges that need to be addressed in the post-2015 agenda, *inter alia*: effective measurements to monitor development progress; investments in statistical data collection; and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and Committee Chair, urged all Africans to take full ownership of the CAP, noting that the challenge remains to transform the CAP's priority pillars into action

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/common-african-position-on-post-2015-agenda-launched/>

Jakarta Workshop Addresses Sustainable Development Challenges for Cities

13 March 2014



The Project on Sustainability Transformation Beyond 2015

(Post-2015) organized an international expert meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, to discuss sustainable development challenges in cities. The workshop aimed to promote communication among research communities and to contribute to Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8 on a global partnership for development. It convened from 11-13 March 2014.

The event began with visits to three poverty reduction and community development projects, including schools for street children and a mothers' empowerment and livelihood development project.

Participants discussed presentations on: human and environmental security; community vulnerability and risk; the water-food-energy nexus; sustainable urban growth; partnerships for implementing the post-2015 development agenda; the OECD's Green Cities Programme; and World Vision Indonesia's 'Cities For Children' initiative.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) reported on progress toward MDG 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda.

Participants said the idea of sustainable cities has been supported in the process to develop the SDGs. They emphasized the need to study migration to cities, including from a supply chain perspective, adding that South-North migration and human rights concerns make addressing migration at the UN level 'very problematic.'

Participants prioritized as key challenges for sustainable cities: technology; disaster management; urban planning capacity; income and employment; education; environment, including waste management, energy and watershed management; resilience and disaster management; transportation; and governance.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/jakarta-workshop-addresses-sustainable-development-challenges-for-cities/>

International Workshop Examines 'Green and Social' Development

14 March 2014



The International Workshop titled 'Green and Social: Managing Synergies and Trade-offs' explored how existing development pathways can be transformed to become more environmentally sustainable and more socially inclusive. The workshop, organized by the German Development Institute (DIE) and the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet), took place on 12-14 March 2014, in Bonn, Germany.

The first two days of the workshop featured a series of paper presentations, keynote speeches and panel discussions. On the third day, an invitation-only dialogue was held with about 50 researchers, civil society representatives, government officials and representatives of international organizations, who

came together to discuss how possible trade-offs may be addressed in the design of the post-2015 development agenda.

Concluding comments underlined the need to: identify new development pathways to improve human development within planetary boundaries; address aspects of global climate change that threaten to undermine progress in human prosperity; and redefine human prosperity to show that it is possible to be happy at lower levels of prosperity than currently enjoyed by the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). They also called for strong leadership to tackle negotiations for green and social issues, and stressed that "social" is not just about fighting poverty, but about inequality.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/international-workshop-examines-green-and-social-development/>

Voices



“While they are often denied the investment and opportunities to make use of their full potential, whether due to a lack of employment and education opportunities, disease burden or child marriage, they are well aware of what they want and need: quality education and health care, job opportunities, protection from all forms of abuse, removal of barriers that hinder inclusion and participation, and open and transparent governance.”

President of the UN General Assembly John Ashe said during the High-Level Event of the General Assembly "The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda from 6 to 7 March, "that women and youth should participate in the making and implementation of a shared post-2015 development agenda, which has the eradication of extreme poverty as its overarching objective.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage/2wycs.shtml>

“If multisectoral collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement are the reality for sustainable development in the post-2015 era, we need to debate what type of mechanisms are required to allow all stakeholders to make contributions and to protect against the influence of vested interest.”

Margaret Chan, the director-general of the World Health Organization, made the remarks on February 25th during a keynote address to the U.N. Economic and Social Council on the changing development landscape and what it will mean for agencies focusing on sustainable development. She said the U.N. and the international community produced many good results in pursuit of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, but the challenges ahead will require collaboration and reform.

http://vaccinenewsdaily.com/world_health_organization/330033-chan-says-reform-is-needed-for-post-2015-healthcare/



“The UN has been very clear from the beginning that we must accelerate our efforts till 2015 in achieving MDGs. So, I think, we will still see some significant progress being made. The unfinished agenda will be part of the SDGs. How poverty eradication can be addressed, maternal health, education for the girl child are targets and indicators that will also find their way into the SDGs framework.”

As executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner has been at the forefront of international conferences on environment and sustainable development, including the Rio+20 conference in June 2012. *SciDev.Net* caught up with him at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) in February to discuss the role of science in the post-2015 agenda, and meeting sustainable development goals (SDGs). When asked how does he plan to link the new SDGs to the unfinished agenda of MDGs, he said the above.

<http://www.scidev.net/global/sustainability/feature/q-a-achim-steiner-UNEP-science-post-2015-SDGs.html>

Voices



“Poverty eradication constitutes the biggest global challenge and the core requisite for the sustainable development of the developing countries.”

Wang Min, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, made the remarks on 26th February at a meeting of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 2014 operational activities for development segment, saying that poverty eradication should remain the core of the post 2015 development agenda. Wang highlighted the efforts made by the UN development system and agencies to support developing countries in their poverty eradication efforts, and hoped they will continue to make project planning and implementation more in line with the overall goal.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-02/27/c_133145810.htm

“I'm optimistic that change is possible, because a new vision is emerging and it seems to be galvanizing growing support from governments, business and civil society. The contours of a plan showing how to get there have come to light in the course of eight sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

In a recent guest article for IISD reporting services published on 24th February , Olav Kjørven, Special Advisor to the UNDP Administrator on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, outlined three reasons for optimism about the road ahead in negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. First, there is a common understanding among member states that ambitious targets on providing access to food, education, jobs, health, energy, water and sanitation will be included in the future development age. Second, world-class experts and representatives of civil society and the private sector were involved in the sessions of the Open Working Group, which helps to increase the effectiveness of international agreements. Third, the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can build on the Millennium Development Goals and other best practices.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/guest-articles/post-2015-on-our-way-to-the-world-we-want/>



“Indicators should record not just primary school enrollment, but primary school completion, a move to secondary school, secondary school graduation and ultimately a successful move to the workplace. The goals beyond 2015 must be bold. They must grasp the new opportunities the Internet provides and make sure education is both far-reaching and relevant.”

Corinne Woods, the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign, a UN campaign unit that was set up in response to the Millennium Declaration signed by 189 member states, published an article in Huffington Post on March 4th, saying that there is a massive skill gap in all areas of employment, where half of all jobs require some degree of technology skills which employees do not have. Education should lay more emphasis on equipping young people with workplace skills.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/corinne-woods/equipping-young-people-with-workplace-skills_b_4899163.html?1393969137



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